



Sacramento's Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness

2007-2017

Why do we need a plan to end chronic homelessness?

Homelessness is one of the few issues on which everyone can agree. Nobody likes it, and it's very expensive. Everyone - homeless people, businesses, residents, faith-based groups, community organizations, law enforcement and government - is frustrated. We are especially frustrated when individuals stay on the streets for very long periods of time. Sacramento City and County have adopted a new Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in order to solve the problem of people with disabilities that are "chronically" homeless. Ending Chronic Homelessness is a national movement. Programs in Sacramento, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Portland, and other cities have taken thousands of chronically homeless people off the streets permanently using the proven strategies described below.

Who is "chronically homeless?"

A "chronically" homeless person is one who has a disabling condition and has been homeless for a year or more, or has had 4 or more episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years. Disabling conditions include mental illnesses, physical illnesses or disabilities, alcohol or drug addictions, or other special issues that keep them from being able to maintain housing without assistance.

What strategies are in the Plan?

1. Creation of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

PSH is permanent housing that is affordable and accessible to very low-income, hard-to-house people. The housing is combined with comprehensive supportive services that assist the residents to remain stably housed. The strategy will employ a "housing first" philosophy, which allows people to come in off the streets without complying with myriad rules such as sobriety, case management plans, etc. Throughout Sacramento County we will produce two types of PSH:

a. Units through Leasing -

Goal: House 218 individuals in three years

This strategy provides rental subsidy funds and case management, and places clients into existing housing units throughout the County.

b. Units through Development -

Goal: Develop 280 units within five years

Housing communities that serve people who have been chronically homeless due to disabilities will be developed throughout the County. Partnerships among public agencies, affordable housing developers and service providers will create high quality apartment communities with small individual units, accompanied by intensive services to assist tenants to remain stable.

2. Coordinating Outreach and Central Intake for Chronically Homeless People

We will create an effective, culturally competent, and user-friendly process of moving chronically homeless people from the streets or shelters into PSH. Existing outreach service providers will conduct initial screenings to identify those who are chronically homeless and connect them to Central Intake. Assessments conducted by Central Intake will be mobile and individualized to determine the most

appropriate place to house the individual. Those that are chronically homeless will be connected with PSH units as they become available, and those that do not need PSH will be referred to resources in the existing homeless services network.

3. Preventing Homelessness

Of course, the best strategy is always to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless. Prevention components of the Plan include preservation and replacement of single room occupancy hotels; improved discharge planning for people exiting jails, prisons, hospitals, detox, shelters and mental health facilities; targeted strategies for special at-risk populations such as youth, seniors, and veterans; and diversion from the criminal justice system to appropriate housing and treatment programs.

4. A New Leadership Structure

The Plan calls for development of a broad-based, countywide leadership team made up of representatives from the public, private, and civic sectors. The new Policy Board is made up of high-level leaders to provide strategic direction, oversight, and advocacy to implement the Plan. The Interagency Council is made up of representatives of systems that can form new partnerships and achieve systems changes to end homelessness. It will plan and coordinate the production of PSH units and service delivery, as well as recommend policies and strategies to the Policy Board.

5. Evaluation and Reporting to the Community

A data collection process will document implementation and critical milestones of the Plan, and measure program effectiveness. We will report to the community on progress and results toward ending chronic homelessness.

To read the entire
Ten Year Plan, visit
[www.communitycouncil.org/
homelessplan](http://www.communitycouncil.org/homelessplan)

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